1. **(Twice Amended)** A composition for controlled release of a nucleic acid, comprising:

a. a coacervate;

b. a nucleic acid incorporated in said coacervate; and

c. a delivery agent incorporated in said coacervate,

wherein the coacervate comprises a cationic molecule and an anionic molecule other than said nucleic acid and the delivery agent is other than said cationic molecule of the coacervate.

24. **(Thrice Amended)** The composition of claim 2, wherein said delivery agent is a virus of a viral vector.

29. **(Twice Amended)** A gene delivery system for transducing cells, comprising: a coacervate microsphere encapsulating at least a nucleic acid and a delivery agent that is other than a cation of the coacervate, for facilitating intracellular delivery of said nucleic acid, wherein upon contact of cells with said coacervate microsphere, controlled release of said nucleic acid results in transduction of the cells by said nucleic acid.

32. **(Twice Amended)** The method of claim 31, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a therapeutic agent, the cell is in a host and is transfected with the nucleic acid and expresses the therapeutic agent, and said agent produces a therapeutically beneficial response in said host.

34. **(Amended)** The method of claim 31, further comprising administering said coacervate as a pharmaceutical composition to a host.

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-49 constitute the pending claims in the present application. Claims 1, 24, 29, 32 and 34 have been amended as provided above. The above amendments enter no new matter. Support for the above amendments can be found throughout the application.